

rewarded by finding it May 11, 1902. The nest was in a dead stub growing up from the side of a red oak, and was twenty-four feet from the ground. The opening measured $2 \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ inches and it was 5 inches from the outer edge of the hole to the back wall. It went straight down for $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and the four eggs were resting on some fine chips.

About twelve inches below the entrance to the nest was a smaller hole. This had been commenced by the birds, but was abandoned, as they had run into a hard knot after digging in about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The eggs were deposited just back of the lower hole, and there was only about one fourth of an inch of wood between them and the abandoned opening. The eggs, which are now in the collection of Mr. F. C. Kirkwood, were about ready to hatch.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker can now be called a resident species for Maryland, as I have data for every month in the year.

The only authentic record I have of their breeding in the State other than mine is a note of Mr. L. D. Willis, who saw old birds feeding young near Church Creek, Dorchester County, May 5, 1897. He says the nest was about 60 feet up, in the dead top of a red oak.—WILLIAM H. FISHER, *Baltimore, Md.*

A Much Mated House Sparrow.—In the spring of 1895 I placed a small box with a movable top in a tree near a window of my room in order to try a few experiments with the prolific English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and made the following observations in 1897. During the coldest days and nights of the winter the box was not inhabited, but during warm spells it was occupied by three sparrows, a male and two females. On February 26 I first saw them carry straw to the box to repair the old nest. The male had driven away one of the females and had considerable trouble to keep her away.

I have noticed that where House Sparrows live in a box they take much time in constructing their nest, which is often not completed until some time after the eggs are laid, while those that build in trees build the whole nest in a day or two.

On March 15 the birds were still building. On March 19 I saw them copulate; also on March 23, and again on March 25. Then I shot the female while the male was only two feet away from her; he not hearing any noise, could not make out what ailed her, but it did not take him long to collect his thoughts, for he darted down and was on the ground before the female touched it. As she struck the ground she bounded in the air about a foot, which frightened him. He approached to within a foot of her and fluttered around her. She never even moved her wings after I shot her. My dog picked up the dead bird but I made him drop it by calling to him, but the male did not go back to her. Ten minutes after the male was courting another female; he seemed to know his mate was dead and wanted another immediately. On dissecting the dead bird I found the ovaries all small and the bird was apparently an old one.

On the morning of March 26 I heard the birds in the tree, and on looking out saw the male enter the box and three females were flying around the outside. He stood in the doorway and acted as if he was afraid they wanted to enter, and when one flew near the door he would rush in, turn around and chatter, as these birds do when fighting. Soon one of the females left, when the male came out and courted one of the other two. The other protested but soon flew away. On March 27 I saw them copulating, and also on March 28, and again on April 2 and 3. Then I shot the female when the male was not around. This was at noon. All the afternoon he did nothing but chirp. On dissecting the female I found the ovaries were well developed, she being nearly ready to lay; the bird was apparently a young of the previous year.

On April 4 he had another mate, but she seemed afraid to go into the box. She would enter half way and then back out. The next day she went into the box. April 10 and 11 I saw them copulate, and again on April 17, when I shot the female, at the entrance to the box while the male was on the top looking over at her. The male was very much frightened and flew away. On dissecting the female I found the ovaries very small. On April 22, the male was chirping near the box, coaxing the females to come near and then driving them away. April 23 he was courting a female near the box. On the morning of April 24 he had five females near the box. The supply of female sparrows seemed to be much greater than the demand. April 29 he was again mated. May 6 I saw them copulating. May 19 I shot this female and a cat got it. I now had to leave home for a few days, but on May 27 I found he not only had a new mate but I took from the nest five eggs, four slightly incubated and one added. I did not shoot this bird, and on May 30 and 31 I saw them copulate. I have no further notes, as I was away the rest of the summer.

This bird had five mates up to the first of June, and he did not seem to mind, only for a few minutes, the loss of any of them, and always got a new mate sooner when he saw his mate killed (in one case in ten minutes) than when she was killed when he was away.

Apparently there must be many birds that go unmated throughout the year, for late in April this male had five females after him, all at one time. It would be interesting if some one who has the opportunity would experiment by shooting the male and see if the female would get another mate, and also carry the observation to a later period in the year. We often see several male birds fighting in the street for one female, but in this case the male had more females than he wanted.—J. H. CLARK, *Paterson, N. J.*

The Louisiana Water-Thrush in Minnesota.—On May 23, 1903, my father and I, while collecting small birds on the right bank of the Mississippi River near the mouth of Minnehaha Creek, shot an adult male Louisiana Water-Thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*). Though the female was not seen she was probably nesting near by as the male was in full song. Although Ridgway gives it (Birds of North and Middle America, Part II,

p. 640), as breeding in the "Mississippi bottoms as far as Red Wing," about fifty miles below Minnehaha Creek, we had not hitherto found this species in the vicinity of Fort Snelling.—LOUIS DI ZEREGA MEARNS, *Fort Snelling, Minn.*

Lophophanes vs. Bæolophus.—If the Crested Tits are to be separated generically from *Parus*, as the writer thinks should be done, the name *Lophophanes* should be restricted to the Palæarctic species, and the name *Bæolophus* Cabanis, used for the American species. The two groups differ materially in structural detail, and each runs through the same scale of variation as to style of coloration, both genera containing conspicuously "bridled" species (*Lophophanes cristatus* and *Bæolophus wollweberi*) and excessively plain-colored species (*Lophophanes dichrous* and *Bæolophus inornatus*). This parallelism in color-variation has served to confuse the case by leading those authors who would separate the two groups to place *B. wollweberi* in the genus *Lophophanes* on account of its general resemblance in coloration to *L. cristatus*; but *B. wollweberi* represents the extreme differentiation of the American group in structural characters.

The species and subspecies of *Bæolophus* recognized by the A. O. U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature are as follows:—

- 731. *Bæolophus bicolor* (Linn.).
- 731a. *Bæolophus bicolor texensis* (Sennett).
- 732. *Bæolophus atricristatus* (Cassin).
- 733. *Bæolophus inornatus* (Gambel).
- 733a. *Bæolophus inornatus griseus* (Ridgway).¹
- 733b. *Bæolophus inornatus cineraceus* (Ridgway).
- 734. *Bæolophus wollweberi* (Bonap).—

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Balancing with One Wing.—Soon after reading Mr. Fishers' article in 'The Auk' for April on one wing equilibrium, I had an opportunity to observe this same method of balancing in the common Blue Jay. I secured a young Blue Jay, who had been out of the nest only twelve hours. When he perched on my finger, I turned the finger over, so as to destroy his equilibrium. But he would not be thrown off, but once shot out his left wing and gained his balance. I tried this experiment several times, with the result that he always gained his balance with one wing, usually the left one, as in Mr. Fisher's House Finches. He used his

¹ The removal of this form from the genus *Parus* renders the suppression of the subspecific name *griseus* and the substitution of *ridgwayi*, as proposed by Dr. Richmond, unnecessary.